

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, March 22, 1983/Chaitra 1, 1905
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Namaskar.

MR. SPEAKER: Namaskar.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Sir, it is surprising that there is no quorum. It is the duty of the Government to see that there is quorum. Five minutes have already been wasted.

पाँच मिनट खराब हो गए हैं कवेश्वर
अदर के।

It is Government's responsibility. It is not Private Members' day. It is official business.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं भी यही सोच रहा हूँ। पहली बात तो मुझे मार्शल की उंगली की बहुत फिक्र रहती है कि अगर घंटी दबाते दबाते उसकी उंगली को कुछ हो गया तो कौन जिम्मेदार होगा। बाकी पूरे हाउस की जिम्मेदारी है कि समय से काम हो।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: They maintain neither decorum nor quorum.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND WORKS
AND HOUSING (SHRI BUTA SINGH):
Sir, let us divide. I assure you that we

will maintain quorum let them maintain decorum.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Our reply is that we will maintain quorum with decorum.

Grab bucket unloader at Cochin Port

*328. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Grab Bucket unloader is to be used at the Cochin Port to unload from the ships to the shore imported rock phosphate and sulphur;

(b) if so, whether there will be a spillage of about 1 per cent of quantities of rock phosphate and sulphur transferred from ship to the shore causing pollution nuisance to the naval base as well as surrounding population; and

(c) if so, whether a more sophisticated and spillage-free equipment will be used for unloading to avoid spillage resulting in pollution as well as recurring losses?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, the hon. Minister's reply is like that of an insurance form—yes, no, yes, no. It is strange. I don't think he has looked into the problem.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कहीं वह थोड़ी अंग्रेजी जानने वाली बात तो नहीं हो रही है—यस सर, नों सर।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

Sir, In the reply that is given by the hon. Minister he has admitted the first part of the question 'Yes, Sir' and later on he says that there has been no spillage at all and as a result of that there is no pollution. That seems to be his contention. Firstly, I would like to inform the hon. Minister through you, Sir, that if he personally visits that spot where the unloading operations are taking place at Cochin Port he will be able to see for himself what is happening. Sir, if you permit me at some other stage I would be prepared to lay on the Table of the House photographs of unloading operations—unfortunately I am to lay so many things. Those photographs indicate how much sulphur and phosphate is actually spilled away, to how many kilometers they travel and what is the harm done to the fish there and if he takes cognizance of that he will find the reply he has given is though not wrong, I do not blame him because he has not visited that place

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Have you?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

Only three days ago I have been to Cochin. I can produce my air ticket and lay it on the Table of the House.

AN HON. MEMBER: How are you interested in Cochin?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

Because India belongs to me. Sir, only to correct his reply I would like to ask him some supplementaries. Firstly, can he give us the details as to what is the total quantity of rock phosphate as well as sulphur that is unloaded in each operation and if he gives that figure and also tells us what is the nature of the type of bucket that is used for unloading purposes, whether there are any openings or slits on that entire equipment, so that you will find some quantity will always fly out and if these details are given by him to me in this House then I will be able to ask further supplementaries to find out whether the reply given earlier is correct or not.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, as to the exact quantity of sulphur and phosphate I do not have the figures here but I will try to get it from my Secretary.... (Interruptions) I am entitled to get it. Sir, in one ship-load we get 40,000 tonnes.... When in operation it takes seven tonnes per operation. Now, the main thrust of his question—if I understand him correctly—is that there is danger of spillage and therefore pollution whether to fish or human beings like my hon. friend. Therefore I was myself concerned with this pollution aspect and spillage aspect. I called both the parties who had given tenders for two types of loaders, the screw type which is produced by a Swedish company and the bucket type and grab type roller. I saw the film show by them about the existing spillage and the pollution that it causes. Therefore, I went into the entire question and tried to see whether there is any improvement in the grab type loader. The improvement that has been brought about, which we are adding to grab type, is nearly fool-proof in the sense that there is no spillage, that there is interlocking; unless interlocking takes place the grab will not lift and the lips will be overlapping. Therefore they seal the thing completely. The bucket is totally covered. The danger of spillage is when it discharges in the hopper. Now the hopper is also closed, with ducts which will suck in the surplus dust and again refill it in the filter bag. So with this arrangement now we are satisfied. The people who are going to supply us also guaranteed through their Principals that the spillage will be hardly .0005 per cent. It is negligible. Therefore there is no danger now of any spillage. Spillage is important from pollution point of view when sulphur is to be mainly unloaded. Therefore there is no danger. We are satisfied that considering the entire economics of both these types, the grab type is better. It is economical. It saves energy, foreign exchange and everything because the indigenous content is much more. The screw type is an imported one. It has entirely to be imported. It has not been tried anywhere in the world except in Edinborough where unfortunately an explosion took place because in the screw type there is a friction danger.

Therefore we did not want that. This is the whole story. I have satisfied myself totally by calling both the parties. I hope our hon. friend will be satisfied.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

I am still more unsatisfied. There are lot of contradictions in the reply of the hon. Minister. He has not gone and seen the operation actually but he has seen the film. Even by seeing the film he might have been able to notice that through various lids and openings lot of material actually spills out. He has slightly modified his earlier reply but while modifying he has created further contradictions. In the question I have raised the point whether there is large spillage of over one per cent. Just now, while replying to my earlier question he said, the spillage is very small, instead of one per cent, it is .0005 per cent. (*Interruptions*) I said .0005 per cent.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: It is three zeros.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

I have repeated the zero three times; how many times do you want me to repeat the zero?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Till you become zero.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

That is impossible; even in the zero hour I will not become a zero! Next he says, there is no spillage. Let him check up the facts by actually visiting the place; he has only seen those films.

MR. SPEAKER: He has been in charge of films.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Only in colour!

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

Which is the colour of the film, Sir?

Now, he has slightly modified his reply and said that .0005 per cent spillage is there. But if he visits the spot and sees the unloading operation, he will find that

the spillage is much higher than what he is informing the House here. Now, he has said that he has actually seen the entire equipment and that no spilling of rock-phosphate and other things are there. That is also incorrect.

My second question is: Is it a fact that even on the basis of this .0005 per cent spillage which you have admitted in this House there are areas round about that unloading region where the fishes are killed and air is polluted? You don't give the information to me but here the hon. Members from Kerala belonging to the ruling party who represent that area will be able to confirm this information as to whether the fishes are killed in the area as a result of pollution caused by the spillage and also air pollution is there. If that is so, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has come across some alternate type of the technology of equipment which is completely free from spillage? If it is so, will he at least give assurance to the House that he will be prepared to review the type of the equipment utilised in unloading from the ships so that the fishes are safe, human beings are safe and the air pollution is avoided?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: As I said, the film that we saw and what my colleague is referring to, is the old Grab type loader. I agree that in the existing old Grab type loader spillage is there. If he goes to the spot, he will see the old Grab type loader. There is spillage and it is precisely to correct this that we have gone in for the new Grab type loader which I have described to him, which was seen by our Engineers in Hamburg. It is working there all right and they have seen them and saw that there was no spillage. Therefore, we are satisfied with this new type of loader which is yet to be installed. Even now if we both go there, we will not see either the Swedish screw type equipment or the new grab type equipment.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The question is about the existing grab type.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We are not talking about the existing equipment. This is the question regarding the new

type of equipment. The question relates to the new grab type loader. Now, this is the new grab type loader of which I am talking and it has not been installed. How can we talk of the existing loader that is already going on there?

MR. SPEAKER: He is talking about the equipment which is going to be installed there.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The question that was asked is not about the future equipment that will be brought. It is about what is happening there at present.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I beg your pardon that you please see the first sentence of your question. It says like this:

"(a) whether it is a fact that Grab Bucket unloader is to be used....?" This is what we have not yet ordered. That is why I said all this about the one which has to come and which is yet to be used there and it is the latest grab type.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: Now, that substantiate the contention that there is a great pollution in that area because this Grab Bucket is yet to come there. The existing things do contribute to the pollution of this area. Now, my question is: what are the facilities provided in the Cochin Port to unload these sulphur and rock phosphate chemicals to the factory? At present, this area is highly contaminated. If you kindly go through the report of the pollution Board, you will be convinced that Cochin area is the most highly polluted area in the whole of India. Having answered the questions as 'Yes, Sir', 'No, Sir', and 'Does not arise', where do we stand? He says that the Grab Bucket has yet to be installed. In that case, the existing one must be contributing to this. What is the real answer to this question?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: For the new Coach plant which is being set up under FACH, the question of unloading and

having this unloader came up. Uptil now, we have been getting it straightway unloaded from the ship at the Cochin Port I agree that pollution hazard is there in the existing system, because the present Grab loaders do not have the spillage-proof arrangement. That is why we had asked for tenders. Two tenders were received; one was from the Swedish Company for the screw type....

MR. SPEAKER: That is all right.

Next question.

Licensed capacity for Erythromycin

*330, SHRI T. S. NEGI:

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) licensed capacity for Erythromycin or its intermediates which could be converted to saleable drug forms;

(b) installed capacity for manufacture of Erythromycin from basic fermentation stage, with names and locations of Manufacturers;

(c) how much of the installed capacity from the basic stages of fermentation is being utilised; how much of it is in public sector;

(d) the consumption of Erythromycin or its salts as drugs during 1981-82 and 1982-83 (April—December) in the country;

(e) was any import of Erythromycin thiocyanate allowed by Government to any private sector company or public sector company;

(f) if so, particulars of the companies; and

(g) do any of these companies have the know-how for manufacture of Erythromycin from basic fermentation if so, the reasons for permitting the import of Erythromycin or its intermediates?